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was placed in an airtight container and the reaction was carried out at 45°C for 1 hr in a shading state.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1-7 and 9-18 as follows. A marked-version of each claim showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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--1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a member selected from the group consisting of (a) SEQ ID NOS. 1-8 and 9, (b) complementary base sequences of (a), (c) a mutation of (a) or (b) which is a modified sequence capable of hybridizing at 55°C with SEQ ID NOS. 1-8 and 9 and (d) complementary base sequences of said modified sequences (c).

2. (Amended) A nucleic acid fragment that can be utilized as a primer or probe comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 1, or a nucleic acid fragment comprising a partial sequence in a base sequence of the nucleic acid of claim 1.

3. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the mutation is partial deletion of the base sequence, addition of an extra base or base sequence, or substitution of bases or partial sequence in the base sequence with other base or base sequence, or a combination thereof.

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4. (Amended) The nucleic acid fragment according to claim 2, wherein the mutation is partial deletion of the base sequence, addition of an extra base or base sequence, or substitution of bases or partial sequence in the base sequence with other base or base sequence, or a combination thereof.

5. (Amended) A primer comprising a nucleic acid fragment that can be utilized as a primer according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 4, in which, as an additional modification, a marker is attached to said nucleic acid fragment and/or a moiety attached to a solid-phase carrier is bound to said nucleic acid fragment.

6. (Amended) A probe comprising a nucleic acid fragment that can be utilized as a probe according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 4, in which, as an additional modification, a marker is attached to said nucleic acid fragment and/or a moiety attached to a solid-phase carrier is bound to said nucleic acid fragment.

7. (Amended) A primer comprising a combination of two different nucleic acid fragments with a substantial difference in their base sequences, wherein at least one of said two different nucleic acid fragments is a nucleic acid fragment for a primer according to claim 5, and a marker, and/or a moiety attached to a solid-phase carrier, bound to each molecule of said two nucleic acid fragments.

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9. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 7, wherein the base sequence of said at least one of said two different nucleic acid fragments is a modified base sequence subjected to a mutation, comprising partial deletion of the base sequence, addition of an extra base or base sequence, or substitution of a base or partial sequence in the base sequence with other base or base sequence, or a combination thereof, based on a base sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 9 or complementary base sequence thereof.

10. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 5, wherein said primer comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is a marker or a moiety bound to a solid-phase carrier, wherein said marker or moiety is additionally bound to a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

11. (Twice Amended) The probe according to claim 6, wherein said probe comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is a marker or a moiety bound to a solid-phase carrier, wherein said marker or moiety is additionally bound to a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

12. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 7, wherein said primer comprises at least one different nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional

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modification, and the additional modification in one different said nucleic acid fragment is a marker or a moiety bound to a solid-phase carrier, wherein said marker or moiety is additionally bound to a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

13. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 8, wherein said primer comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is a marker or a moiety bound to a solid-phase carrier, wherein said marker or moiety is additionally bound to a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

14. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 5, wherein the marker or the moiety bound to a solid-phase carrier is a biotin residue, a 2,4-dinitrophenyl group or a digoxigenin residue.

15. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 6, wherein the marker or the moiety bound to a solid-phase carrier is a biotin residue, a 2,4-dinitrophenyl group or a digoxigenin residue.

16. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 7, wherein the marker or the moiety bound to a solid-phase carrier is a biotin residue, a 2,4-dinitrophenyl group or a digoxigenin residue.